

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,694,187 to Abileah et al. ("*Abileah*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,106 to VanderPloeg et al. ("*VanderPloeg*"); rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Abileah* in view of *VanderPloeg* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,703 to Kamada et al. ("*Kamada*"); and rejected claims 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Abileah* in view of *VanderPloeg*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,630,973 to Matsuoka et al. ("*Matsuoka*").

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-7, 9-18, and 21. The rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants also amend claim 19 and add new claims 22-28.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *Abileah* and *VanderPloeg*, even if combined as suggested by the Examiner, both fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 19 and 20.

For example, amended claim 19 recites a liquid crystal display comprising, among other things:

wherein an optical compensation sheet is provided either between the first polarizing plate and the first surface of the liquid crystal cell or between the second polarizing plate and the second surface of the liquid crystal cell, and only provided on one side of the liquid crystal cell, the optical

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

compensation sheet comprising at least two optically anisotropic layers each formed by orienting an optically anisotropic compound, and the orientation direction in the optically anisotropic layer plane of the optically anisotropic compound in the two optically anisotropic layers intersecting each other at an angle of from 80 to 100 degrees.

According to the Examiner, *Abileah* discloses an LCD including a negative biaxial retarder on each side of a liquid crystal layer (entire patent) and a plurality of retarders. *Abileah*, at col. 14, lines 13-18, discloses that different types of retardation films (negative uniaxial, positive or negative biaxial) may be used in the invention (Final Office Action dated March 8, 2006 at p. 6, lines 1-4)

Thus, as stated by the Examiner, *Abileah* discloses an LCD including a retarder on each side of a liquid crystal layer (i.e., a front retarder on one side of a liquid crystal layer and a rear retarder on the other side of a liquid crystal layer (see Figure 11a)), wherein there is an angle of about 90° between the front and rear retarders (Figures 11b and 11c)). At least for this reason, *Abileah* does not disclose the claimed liquid crystal display wherein an optical compensation sheet is provided either between the first polarizing plate and the first surface of the liquid crystal cell or between the second polarizing plate and the second surface of the liquid crystal cell, and is only provided on one side of the liquid crystal cell.

Abileah, as admitted by the Examiner (Final Office Action at p. 6), describes an LCD, but fails to explicitly describe:

one of the two optically anisotropic layers, when the optically anisotropic compound is uniaxial, is oriented so that a first angle of the optic axis of the uniaxial optically anisotropic compound to the optical compensation sheet plane increases continuously or stepwise in the thickness

direction of the optical compensation sheet, or when the optically anisotropic compound is biaxial, is oriented so that a second angle of a direction giving maximum refractive index of the biaxial optically anisotropic compound to the optical compensation sheet plane increases continuously or stepwise in the thickness direction of the optical compensation sheet, and

the other optically anisotropic layer, when the optically anisotropic compound is uniaxial, is oriented so that the first angle decreases continuously or stepwise in the thickness direction of the optical compensation sheet, or when the optically anisotropic compound is biaxial, is oriented so that the second angle decreases continuously or stepwise in the thickness direction of the optical compensation sheet.

The Examiner, however, relies on *VanderPloeg* as allegedly disclosing these features. In particular, the Examiner cites *VanderPloeg* as disclosing, at col. 5, lines 9-12, a NW twisted nematic LCD with negative tilted retarders on one side of a liquid crystal cell in which each of first and second tilted retardation layers defines an azimuthal angle and a polar and incline angle which varies in at least one direction (upward or downward) through the thickness of the layer (Final Office Action dated March 8, 2006, at p 7, lines 1-5).

Thus, *VanderPloeg* discloses that the polar angle or a polar and incline angle varies in at least one direction (upward or downward) through the thickness of the layer. However, *VanderPloeg* does not specify how the polar and incline angle vary. Accordingly, *VanderPloeg* does not disclose how the angle of each of first and second tilted retardation layers increases or decreases, much less the angle relationship of the two optically anisotropic layers, as claimed.

Abileah and *VanderPloeg*, even if combined, thus do not disclose each and every element of the liquid crystal display in claim 19. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The remaining claims depend from independent claim 19, either directly or indirectly, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 19 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of claims 19, 20, and 22-38.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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